



President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo inspires the delegates during the opening of the Palarong Pambansa 2009. Also in photo are Vice Pres. Noli De Castro, Leyte Gov. Jericho 'Icot' Petilla, DepEd Sec. Jesli Lapus, TESDA Secretary General 'Buboy' Syjuco and other officials and delegates from the different regions in the country.

GMA formally opens Palaro

TACLOBAN CITY – President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo officially declared open the Palarong Pambansa at the Leyte Sports Development Center yesterday despite sports events have started on Monday, prior to her declaration.

Dressed in light blue blouse and pants, she was joined by Vice-president Noli de Castro during the opening ceremony.

"This is the first time that the President and the Vice-President are present during this national sports event," Arroyo said.

Speaking before the 10,000 strong delegates from the 17 regions all over the country, Arroyo said that Palarong Pambansa is a priority project of the government because this only shows how important sports is.

"Sports develop our youth not only in terms of health but also on the character, discipline, self confidence, mental prowess and most of all teamwork," Arroyo said.

These are the qualities that are to be developed to our students engaged in sports, she added.

"As part of a comprehensive

program, sports can help our country face the challenges of financial crisis worldwide." She said.

After her keynote speech, all delegations clad in their caps and umbrellas paraded despite the scorching heat of the sun. The usual "saludo" or "pakulo" of each delegation were executed.

Region XII, the most applauded delegation, while, preparing for their finale of the "saludo", a downpour continued to heavy. But this did not stop the last four delegations of the CARAGA, ARMM, NCR and the host region of Eastern Visayas

to stop the parade.

"Grabe, ito pala ang palarong pambansa, kahit na umulan, tuloy pa rin." Mila, a resident of Tacloban said.

Leyte province hosted the Palaro 26 years ago that the locals have lost sight of what it was in 1983.

With this province's hosting this year, economic activities and tourism continue to thrive in this side of the country.

The province of Leyte spent P70 million for the repairs of the sports facilities and other infrastructures, while the An Waray poured in another P10 million. (HST)

Region XII delegation well-applauded during "saludo"

WITH no less than DepEd XII ARD Dr. Allan Farnazo leading and like a cheerleader rallying his cheer dancers, the Region XII delegation got a very loud applause during their 2-minuter "saludo" from spectators at the grandstand of the Leyte Sports Development Center (LSDC), Tacloban City.

Enduring fatigue, heat, thirst and hunger and with their performance at around 1 o'clock in the afternoon already, Region XII showed how it is to perform with their graceful bodies gyrating to the tune of "Ayer...eh...ayer..." music and with colorful flaglets waving in the air.

But before the performance ended, a cold wisp of air breezed

through the LSDC grounds and followed by a very slight drizzle of rain, but it did not dampen the spirits of the Region XII delegates who finished their performance almost on time.

Luckily enough after Region XII's performance, a heavy downpour ensued due to the Low Pressure Area (LPA) PAG-ASA forecasted earlier.

A sky-diving exhibition was also performed before the heavy downpour with three of the skydivers landing safely inside the LSDC grounds, while one skydiver landed outside the sports complex. (FCSJR)



RD Luz Almeda recognizing the athletes and coaches who garnered medals and other awards in the first day of Palaro.

CRAA Delegation shines on the 1st day of Palaro '09

TACLOBAN CITY – The Cotabato Regional Athletic Association (CRAA) shines in the secondary boys on the first day of the Palarong Pambansa 2009 hosted by the province of Leyte.

The Cotabato region garnered 42 points in Arnis and Athletics events on the ongoing student-athletes national competition.

Domingo Cabradilla, an 18 year old athlete from the Capital Tuna of the Philippines, General Santos City landed on silver medal in long jump which earned 5 points.

Meanwhile, John Albert

Mantua, other tuna boy captured the gold medal in shot put secondary boys after howling 10.99 meters compared to his opponents from other regions.

The impressive performance of John Rey Miguel, Jerome Magna, and Nomer Buenavente in Arnis marked 30 points to make the region to be on top together with the Western Visayas Region who also bagged 42 points.

Department of Education XII Director Luz S. Almeda, told during the solidarity meeting together with the athletes, chaperons and coaches to give cash incentives to the medalist athletes. (AMS)

OIC-ARD Allan Farnazo leading the 'Saludo' presentation of Region XII.



"Palarong Pambansa 2009 has many firsts" – Lapus Chess soon to be part of school curriculum

DEPARTMENT of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus described the 2009 Palarong Pambansa in Tacloban City, Leyte as having so many "firsts" in making history for itself, in a press conference held at the posh Leyte Park Hotel, Tacloban City.

Lapus referred to the results of the Palaro which can be surfed or viewed on-line via internet through its official website www.depedtfs.wikipaces.com and the provision of foam mattresses to athletes which were given as a form of "token".

The 2009 Palarong Pambansa was also covered live via television courtesy of ABC- 5 national television based in Metro Manila, another first in its history.

Lapus also announced that chess, a game of mind and wits, will also be introduced to schools nationwide by DepEd this coming June 2009 opening as part of their



Secretary Jesli Lapus answers question during the Press Conference at the Leyte Park Hotel. Also in Photo are (L-R) Assistant Secretary Teodosio Sangil and Undersecretary Ramon Bacani.

curriculum.

"This coming Thursday (April 30), DepEd will sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Chess Federation, the highest-governing chess body in the country, to help DepEd implement this (new) curriculum", Lapus stressed.

The DepEd Secretary also

congratulated the province of Leyte under the helm of Governor Carlos Jericho Petilla for hosting the 2009 Palarong Pambansa, adding that it gave a big boost to the local economy especially to the City of Tacloban, with more than 10,000 local visitors in attendance during the entire duration of the Palaro. (FCSJr)

Amoroso, Baguios, adjudged 2nd runner-up in pageant

TACLOBAN CITY – Marvin Val Amoroso and Christine Jade Jerusalem Baguios were adjudged 2nd runner-up in the recently concluded Search for Mr. and Miss Palaro 2009.

Amoroso however bested other candidates in the Best in Regional Costume and Best in Interview special awards. He showed off with a combination of Tiboli, B'laan and Maguindano outfit. Looking at his costume, one can imagine the diversity in tribe, culture and tradition of the region he represented.

Marvin, as he is fondly called by classmates at the Koronadal National Comprehensive High School in Koronadal City, attributed his eloquence in the interview portion to his being a parliamentarian in their Department of Science and Technology class. When asked how he can motivate other students to join in sports during the interview portion, he confidently said, "to start with the topic, you can't motivate other people to indulge in an activity if they can't see the good things in you. I would serve as a good model to them, showcasing the values I've earned through sports. I will share to them the developments I've reached in my inter and intrapersonal skills as well as discipline and other traits we eventually developed when we are trained and honed in the field."

Baguios is a student of Banga National High School, Banga, South Cotabato. She is also an archery player for four consecutive years. She was highly applauded when she gracefully executed her talent by balancing the pot. Banga is a vernacular term for pot. (CSJr)

Tuna boy catches gold in Leyte

TACLOBAN CITY – John Albert Mantua snatched the last gold in shot put on the first day of the Palarong Pambansa here Monday with a whooping 10.99 meter distance outwitting his previous record of 10.69 meters during the regional meet held at the South Cotabato Sports Complex.

He bested his opponents Charlon Kim Saraga of Davao Region who won a silver medal with his 10.50 meters and Oscar Pasia Jr. with his 10.19 meters earning for him a bronze medal.

Amidst the dusky sky on Monday afternoon, Mantua throw the first gold in athletics for Region 12.

Being a first timer in the Palarong Pambansa, he is happy to receive his first gold for this year.

"I am very happy," quips the young boy from General Santos City.

He disclosed that he was already an athlete since Grade 3 but competed only up to the regional meet.

It was only this year, when he, already a third year high school student at Fatima National High School won a gold medal during the Cotabato Regional Athletic Association Meet when GenSan stole the championship trophy from South Cotabato.

Mantua disclosed that his



John Albert Mantua (center) with coaches Allan Villarosa (R) and Alfonso Josol (L).

parent were also athletes but did not make in the Palarong Pambansa.

His mother Nenita, also an athlete in throwing events during his younger years broke into tears when he received the news that his eldest son Albert John, won gold medal in shot put.

He said he owed his achievements to his coach Mr. Allan Villarosa, a dedicated coach in athletics- boys secondary.

"Magaling magdisiplina si coach Allan, kaya kahit pinapagalitan niya ako dahil pasaway ako minsan, nagpapasalamat pa rin ako dahil napalabas niya ang tunay na kakayahan ko," Mantua said.

Villarosa said that CRAA is determined to sweep another gold to be at par with the leading Western Visayas with two gold and 1 silver during the first day. (HST)

Summary of Events Won, As of April 28, 2009

| Events | Results | Coach |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Arnis | | Eric Marvin Victorio |
| Secondary Boys | | |
| - Individual Doble Baston | Gold | |
| - Individual Solo Baston | Silver | |
| - Synchronized Solo Baston | Silver | |
| - Synchronized Doble Baston | Gold | |
| Athletics | | |
| - Triple Jump, Elem. Boys-Finals | 4th Place | Lito Gozo/Diego Tiwan |
| - Javelin Throw, Elem. Girls-Finals | 4th and 5th Place | Cristina Lo/Noli Larida |
| - Shot Put, Elem. Girls-Finals | 6th Place | |
| - Long Jump, Sec. Boys-Finals | Silver | |
| Badminton (elimination round) | | Jaime Padecio |
| - First Singles | Winner vs opponent | |
| - Doubles | Winner vs opponent | |
| - Second Singles | Winner vs opponent | |
| Baseball (elimination round) | | Marites Romantico |
| - Elementary | Winner by default | |
| Dancesports (not yet included in the point system) | | Margie Narcilla |
| - Cha-cha | Gold | |
| - Rumba | Gold | |
| - Jive | Gold | |
| - Samba | Bronze | |
| - Two dance category | Bronze | |
| - Three dance category | Silver | |
| Sepak Takraw (elimination round) | | |
| - Secondary Boys | Winner vs opponent | Jimmy Antiola |
| Table Tennis (elimination round) | | Edgar Baltero |
| - Elementary Girls Game 2 | Winner vs opponent | |

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